



plains leopard frog

Rana blairi

Kingdom:	Animalia
Division/Phylum:	Chordata - vertebrates
Class:	Amphibia
Order:	Anura
Family:	Ranidae

Features

The plains leopard frog is usually two to 3 3/4 inches long. Its stocky body is usually brown and dorsal spots are round, not elongated. A light line is found along the upper jaw and a light spot occurs on the tympanum (eardrum). A dark spot on the snout and dorsolateral folds (two parallel folds of skin that run down the back) that are interrupted in the lower back area and inset toward the center are characteristic features.

Natural History

The plains leopard frog is found in the southern third of Iowa. It eats arthropods (spiders, insects, mites, etc.) and mollusks (snails, slugs, etc.). It breeds with the onset of warm spring rains. The male's call is two or three spaced notes like "chuck-chuck" or "chuck-chuck-chuck." The female deposits several thousand eggs in a submerged mass. Hatching occurs in two to three weeks and transformation to froglets usually occurs June through August.

Habitats

Constructed lakes, ponds, & reservoirs; natural lakes and prairie marshes; Mississippi River; Missouri River; interior rivers and streams; temporary water supplies; wet prairies and fens

Iowa Status

common; native

Iowa Range

southern two-thirds of Iowa

Bibliography

Iowa Department of Natural Resources. 2001.
Biodiversity of Iowa: Aquatic Habitats CD-ROM.